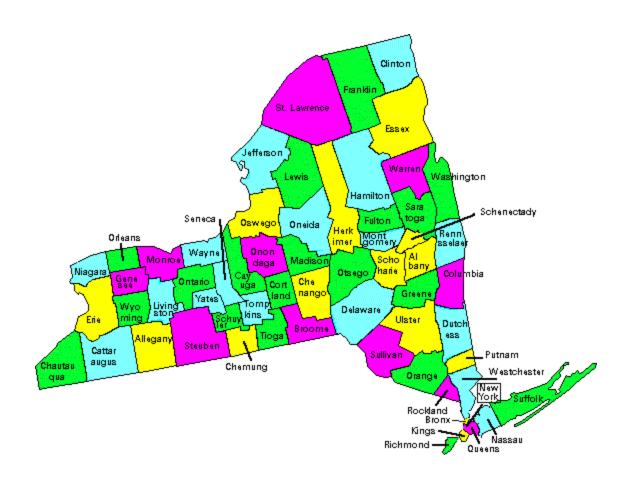
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of New York

Profile of Drug Indicators

August 2000



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

New York

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics 1

- Population: 18,196,601 (1999 Estimate); 17,990,778 (1990 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity: 74.4% white; 15.9% African American; 12.3% Hispanic; 3.9% Asian

Politics²

- ➤ Governor: George E Pitaki
- Lt. Governor: Mary O. Donohue
- ➤ Attorney General: Eliot Spitzer
- ➤ U.S. Senate: Charles E. Schumer (D), Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D)
- U.S. Representatives (District): Michael Patrick Forbes (1), Rick A. Lazio (2), Peter T. King (3), Carolyn McCarthy (4), Gary L. Ackerman (5), Gregory W. Meeks (6), Joseph Crowley (7), Jerrold L. Nadler (8), Anthony D. Weiner (9), Edolphus 'Ed' Towns (10), Major R. Owens (11), Nydia M. Velazquez (12), Vito J. Fossella, Jr. (13), Carolyn B. Maloney (14), Charles B. Rangel (15), Jose E. Serrano (16), Eliot L. Engel (17), Nita M. Lowey (18), Sue W. Kelly (19), Benjamin A. Gilman (20), Michael R. McNulty (21), John E. Sweeney (22), Sherwood L. 'Sherry' Boehlert (23), John M. McHugh (24), James T. 'Jim' Walsh (25), Maurice D. Hinchey (26), Thomas M. Reynolds (27), Louise McIntosh Slaughter (28), John J. LaFalce (29), Jack Quinn (30), Amory 'Amo' Houghton, Jr. (31).

Programs/Initiatives

- ➤ FY 1999 Drug-Free Communities Support Program Grantees awarded by ONDCP in conjunction with Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP):³
 - \$100,000 to the City of Ithaca
 - \$100,000 to Community Action Partnership, Inc., Cheektowaga
 - \$100,000 to Westchester County District Attorney, White Plains
- New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁴
 Designated as one of the five original High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas in 1990, the New York/New Jersey HIDTA employs a multi-agency task force approach to disrupt and dismantle drug-related money laundering and drug gang organizations.
- > Executive Office of Weed and Seed⁵
 - Albany has been a Weed and Seed site since January 1997. As part of this
 program, Law Enforcement Task Forces are targeting drug dealing and violent
 offenses in Albany. Since 1997, the number of arrests for drug dealing within the
 target area has increased and reductions in street level dealing are now visible to
 members of the community.
 - The eastside of Buffalo also serves as a Weed and Seed site. This area has the highest concentration of crime and violence in Buffalo and is one of the city's most socio-economically distressed areas. The goals of this site include intensive

- crackdowns and removal of illegal weapons and drugs from "hot spots" and to carry out coordinated drug sweeps in pre-selected areas by the DEA.
- The following locations are also Weed and Seed sites in New York: Castle Hill-Bronx; East New York-Brooklyn; Far Rockaway-Queens; Huntington Station; Mott Haven-Bronx; New Cassel; North Amityville; North Bellport; Rochester; Roosevelt; Syracuse; Village of Hempstead.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

➤ Preliminary data for 1999 show that there were 51,210 adult arrests in New York State (excluding New York City) for felony drug violations. This number represents an 11.7% decline in the amount of such arrests during 1998.

Number of Adult Arrests, New York State, 1998-1999 (Preliminary)

	1998	1999	% Change 1998-1999
Total Arrests	585,642	552,397	- 7.3
Total Felony	198,192	181,052	- 8.6
Violent	60,260	53,986	- 10.4
Drug	57,993	51,210	- 11.7
Other	79,939	75,856	- 5.1
Total Misdemeanor	397,450	371,345	- 6.6
Violent	98,254	94,484	- 3.8
Drug	42,624	39,353	- 7.7
Other	256,572	237,508	- 7.4

➤ In 1998, 135,640 of the total drug arrests (all ages) in New York (including New York City) were for drug use/possession. ⁷

Total Drug Use/Possession Arrests, New York, 1997-98

	Opium/ Cocaine/ Derivatives	Marijuana	Synthetic Narcotics	Other Dangerous Drugs	Total Use/Possess. Arrests
1998	48,356	78,517	489	8,278	135,640
1997	48,586	63,811	505	6,642	119,544

➤ There were 54,341 total drug arrests (all ages) for sale/manufacturing in New York (including NYC) in 1998.⁸

Total Sale/Manufacturing Arrests, New York, 1997-98

	Opium/ Cocaine/		Synthetic	Other Dangerous	Total Sale/Manuf.
	Derivatives	Marijuana	Narcotics	Drugs	Arrests
1998	39,046	10,331	343	4,621	54,341
1997	37,609	9,971	434	3,807	51,821

➤ In New York City during 1999, 81.3% of the 1200 female arrestees sampled tested positive for drug use at the time of their arrest. 74.7% of the 2,190 male arrestees samples tested positive. 93.9% of the females charged with drug possession tested positive for drugs. 9

Percent of Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs, New York City, 1999

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	Coc	aine	Mari	juana	P	CP	Any	Drug
Offense Type	M	${f F}$	M	${f F}$	M	\mathbf{F}	M	${f F}$
Violent	30.7	39.3	40.6	33.5	0.4	2.4	60.7	65.5
Property	48.3	65.9	33.6	19.3	1.0	1.3	72.8	78.8
Drug	52.6	80.8	48.8	25.0	1.2	1.0	88.8	92.9
Sales	55.9	81.4	42.3	21.7	1.8	1.2	87.9	88.2
Possession	53.7	80.0	49.4	26.1	0.9	1.0	89.6	93.9
Prostitution	43.6	66.5	35.9	31.9	0.0	0.5	61.5	88.6
Other	38.0	51.4	35.9	24.5	0.5	0.0	66.1	67.8

Juveniles

There were 3,516 total juvenile (under age 16) arrests for drug offenses in New York State in 1998. 2,114 of these were for drug use/possession. 10

Juvenile Drug Use/Possession Arrests, New York State, 1998

Age	Opium, Etc.	Marijuana	Synthetic	Other	Total
Under 10	1	12	0	1	14
10-12	6	36	0	3	45
13	25	112	0	7	144
14	53	436	2	12	503
15	170	1,186	4	48	1,408
Total All Ages	255	1,782	6	71	2,114

➤ 1,402 juveniles were arrested for the sale/manufacturing of drugs in 1998. 11

Juvenile Sale/Manufacturing Arrests, New York State, 1998

Age	Opium, Etc.	Marijuana	Synthetic	Other	Total
Under 10	2	2	0	1	5
10-12	11	10	0	4	25
13	76	27	3	5	111
14	271	101	2	13	387
15	620	194	4	56	874
Total All Ages	980	334	9	79	1,402

➤ 41.3% of New York State high school students surveyed in 1999 reported using marijuana at least once in their lifetimes. 12

Percent of High School Students Reporting Selected Drug Use, New York, 1999

	Females	Males	Total
Lifetime Marijuana Use	38.7	43.8	41.3
Current Marijuana Use	21.0	25.8	23.4
Lifetime Cocaine Use	6.0	7.5	6.8
Current Cocaine Use	2.4	3.6	3.0
Lifetime Inhalant Use	11.0	12.6	11.8
Current Inhalant Use	3.1	4.3	3.7
Lifetime Heroin Use	1.8	3.5	2.6
Lifetime Methamphetamine Use	5.9	6.9	6.4
Lifetime Illegal Steroid Use	2.0	5.4	3.7
Lifetime Injected Illegal Drug Use	1.2	2.7	2.0

➤ 10.6% of high school males surveyed in New York State in 1999 reported trying marijuana before age 13. 13

Drugs

➤ The New York/New Jersey region presents an ideal location for the importation of drugs through its two major international airports, several domestic airports, two major railroad complexes, hundreds of miles of subway tracks, extensive waterfront with various points-of-entry, and complex networks of highways, bridges and tunnels. In addition, New York City is the financial capital of the world, which provides drug traffickers with the perfect opportunity for laundering drug profits. 14

Cocaine and Crack

New York City was one of only two CEWG cities to report a decrease in cocaine/crack indicators. Despite this decline, cocaine continues to account for major problems in New York City, and it dominates the current drug market within the New York/New Jersey HIDTA region. It has been shown that some street-level crack dealers in NYC are now opting to sell cocaine hydrochloride (HCl) or heroin instead of crack. Most crack sellers in NYC are no longer using vials to package the drug but are now using small plastic bags or aluminum foil. These newer packaging materials are easier to conceal from police. In

> Heroin

NYC continues to be the most significant heroin destination and distribution center in the U.S. ¹⁸ Heroin-selling locations continue to spread throughout NYC. Many former crack sellers have switched drugs and are now selling heroin because of its high profit potential. While Colombians continue to control the production, processing, and smuggling aspects of the drug operation, the Dominican drug gangs control the distribution of heroin, crack, and cocaine HCl in NYC. These Dominican gangs are not unified but are separate groups, each acting independently with its own leadership. The majority of people seen buying heroin in NYC seem to be in their late twenties and thirties, and there does not appear to be one race that is buying at a higher rate than another. ¹⁹

➤ Marijuana/Hashish

The Street Studies Unit (SSU) in New York City reports that marijuana is the most sought after illegal substance in the metropolitan area and continues to increase in

availability and grow in popularity. ²⁰ Marijuana activity continues to show steady and dramatic increases, especially among adolescents and young adults in this area. One of the primary means of smoking marijuana continues to be with the blunt cigar. The NYPD is making an effort to discourage marijuana activity in NYC despite the decriminalization of possessing small amounts of marijuana. ²¹

> Other Drugs

- U.S. Customs officials have stated that New York City is becoming the center of the illegal importation of Ecstasy (MDMA). Increased supplies of Ecstasy from Belgium and the Netherlands were reported in the City. ²²
- Methamphetamine has not been shown to surface very often in NYC. When it is used, though, it is often used in nightclubs along with hallucinogenic drugs.²³
- PCP ("angel dust") continues to be available in NYC. PCP is frequently used as an adulterant to boost weak marijuana.²⁴
- "Dipping" is a recent phenomenon in NYC that involves submerging a cigarette in formaldehyde and letting it dry. Consequently, the individual ingests the active chemicals in the formaldehyde. Adolescents who may not be able to afford to buy more expensive drugs practice this method of drug use. Effects of using formaldehyde as an inhalant include numbness, slurred speed, loss of coordination, auditory hallucinations, and paranoia. 25

Consequences of Use

➤ In 1998 there were 935 drug abuse deaths reported by Medical Examiners (ME) in New York City. There were 1,081 drug abuse deaths reported here in 1997. This represents a 13.5% decrease in the number of drug abuse deaths reported in NYC from 1997-1998.²⁶

Drug Abuse Deaths, New York City, 1995-98

			J /
1995	1996	1997	1998
1,511	1,288	1,081	935

➤ Cocaine was mentioned in 515 of these deaths. ²⁷

Drug Mentions by ME, New York City, 1998

Cocaine	Heroin/ Morphine	Inhalants/ Solv./Aeros.	Marijuana/ Hashish	Methadone	Metham./ Speed
515	448	5	53	111	2

From January to June 1999, there were 7,557 Emergency Department (ED) cocaine mentions in New York City. ²⁸

Estimated Number of ED Drug Mentions, NYC, January-June 1999

Cocaine	Heroin/Morphine	Marij./Hashish	Metham./Speed
7,557	4,195	1,836	12

➤ In 1998 there were 58,368 Emergency Department (ED) drug mentions in New York City. ²⁹

Estimated Number of ED Mentions by Drug, NYC, Full-year 1997-98

		Heroin/		Marijuana/		Methamphet-	
Coc	aine	Morphine		Hashish		amine/Speed	
1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
20,202	19,549	9,491	9,244	3,842	3,684	32	36

Trafficking and Seizures

- ➤ In the first three months of 1999, the DEA made 79 Ecstasy seizures in New York State. ³⁰
- ➤ In 1998, there were a total of 12,535 marijuana plants eradicated in New York State.³¹

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized in New York State, 1998

Outdoor Operations		Indoor Operations		
	Cultivated			Total
Plots	Plants	Grows	Plants	Plants
Eradicated	Eradicated	Seized	Eradicated	Eradicated
171	6,966	43	3,762	12,535

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 1998, New York had 82,797 full-time law enforcement employees. 80% of these were full-time sworn officers. The remaining law enforcement employees were civilians.³²
- ➤ HIDTA³³
 - The New York/New Jersey HIDTA consists of New York City and Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester Counties in New York and Union, Hudson, Essex, Bergen, and Passaic Counties in New Jersey and all included municipalities. Hundreds of representatives from 82 Federal, State, and local agencies are full-time participants in the NY/NJ HIDTA initiatives.
- Prosecutor-led Task Forces ³⁴
 There are several Prosecutor-led Task Forces that are an important component of New York's strategy to improve prosecution effectiveness. Two prosecutor's offices in New York City and four prosecutor's offices outside the city operate these task forces. Examples include the King's County Prosecutor Task Force, which investigates drug gang networks operating in public-housing projects, and the Queens Prosecutor Task Force, which focuses on the movement of large quantities of drugs shipped into JFK International Airport.
- Regional Drug Enforcement Task Forces (DETF)³⁵
 These Task Forces are designed to facilitate intra-agency coordination and enhance the ability of law enforcement agencies to attack large volume, multi-jurisdictional drug trafficking networks. Staffed by Federal DEA agents, State Police investigators and local law enforcement officers, DETFs investigate drug trafficking networks throughout the nineteen counties that comprise the targeted region. DETF officers are able to enforce Federal, as well as State drug laws and utilize the Federal forfeiture statutes.
- ➤ Community Narcotics Enforcement Teams (CNET)³⁶

The CNET Program is solely designed as a street-level drug enforcement operation acting as a resource for local law enforcement agencies. This program embodies a comprehensive, problem-oriented policing strategy designed to assist local police agencies in developing long-term solutions to communities' drug problems. State Police narcotics investigators and local police work together to accomplish the goals of the local agency.

➤ Points-of-Entry Program (POE)³⁷
The POE Program is a multi-jurisdictional initiative that targets drug trafficking and organized crime at major public transportation facilities in the two largest metropolitan areas (Queens County in New York City and Buffalo in Erie County). This program involves both district attorneys' offices as well as local law enforcement agencies and facilitates the coordination of investigations, pooling of resources and information, and the integration of the law enforcement and prosecutorial functions.

Courts³⁸

- ➤ During FY98, 39.5% of the Federally sentenced offenders in New York were charged with drug offenses.³⁹
- ➤ Powder cocaine was the drug most often involved in these cases (36.3% of cases), followed by heroin (34.4%), crack (18%), marijuana (9%), other drugs (1.8%), and methamphetamine (0.2%).
- ➤ In 1998, 90.7% of those prosecuted for a Federal drug trafficking offense in New York were sentenced to prison. Of those prosecuted for simple possession, 68.8% were sent to prison. This percentage is greater than the national average of 32.2%.
- Drug Courts
 - As of March 31, 2000 there were 21 drug courts located throughout New York that had either been recently implemented or have been operating for over two years. In addition to this, there were 22 drug courts being planned in New York at this time. 40
 - An example of one of these drug courts is the Brooklyn Treatment Court. This court represents an innovative approach to handling substance-abusing defendants within the court system. Collaborative partnerships with the Kings County District Attorney, the Legal Aid Society, the New York City Department of Corrections and other criminal justice agencies have resulted in a comprehensive court-based response to the needs of nonviolent substance abusing offenders. This program offers treatment as an alternative to incarceration (see DTAP below).
- ➢ By 2003, New York will become the first state to offer all nonviolent offenders with substance abuse problems an opportunity to seek treatment in lieu of prison time. While many states have experimented with drug courts and other diversion programs, New York will be the first to implement a mandated-treatment policy system-wide. All non-violent offenders, except serious drug dealers, will be eligible for treatment under this new system. As part of this new initiative, drug courts will be set up in every metropolitan area and jurisdiction in the state, and specialty drug courts will be established for persistent misdemeanor offenders in New York City, probation violators, and child-neglect cases. Those who complete treatment would be allowed to plead guilty to a lesser (misdemeanor) offense and those who drop out would face reinstatement of the original indictment.⁴²

Corrections

- At mid-year 1999 (June 30) there were 73,960 prisoners under the jurisdiction of State or Federal correctional authorities in New York. This represents a 4.6% increase in the population since June 30, 1998 when there were 70,723 prisoners under this jurisdiction. 43
- ➤ The number of offenders in New York State prisons for drug offenses totaled 31,500 in 1998. 44
- At the end of 1999 (December 31), there were 183,686 adults on probation in New York. At the beginning of 1999 (January 1), there had been 178,612 adults on probation. These numbers represent a 2.8% increase in New York's probation population for 1999. 45
- New York had the fourth highest (after California, Texas and Pennsylvania) adult parole population at the end of 1999. At this time, there were 57,956 adults on parole in New York. 46

Treatment

- ➤ Drug Treatment Alternative to Prison (DTAP)⁴⁷
 Initiated in 1990 by the King's County District Attorney, Charles J. Hynes, DTAP was the first prosecution-run program in the country to divert prison-bound felony offenders to residential drug treatment. This program is based on the premise that defendants would return to society in a better position to resist drugs and crime after treatment than if they had spent a comparable time in prison. DTAP targets drugaddicted defendants arrested for non-violent felony offenses who have previously been convicted of one or more nonviolent felonies.
- As of February 2000, 1,130 defendants have been accepted into the DTAP program, 231 are still in treatment and 438 have completed the program and have had their charges dismissed. Defendants entered into DTAP have their sentences deferred while undergoing 15-24 months of intensive drug treatment. 48
- As of October 1, 1997 there were 1,184 substance abuse treatment facilities in New York. These facilities served 127,272 clients at this time. 49
- ➤ In the first half of 1997, there were 7,862 primary cocaine admissions reported by all New York City treatment programs. Of those admitted, 60% were males, and 65% were African American. 92% of those admitted were over the age of 26.⁵⁰
- There were 9,553 heroin treatment admissions to all New York City drug treatment programs in the first half of 1997. About 56% of these admissions reported intranasal use and 42% reported injecting. Those admitted were overwhelmingly male (70%) and older than 35 years of age (56%). ⁵¹
- ➤ Marijuana treatment admissions totaled 3,073 for the first half of 1997 in New York City treatment programs. 75% of these were male, and approximately half were younger than the age 21. 52

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U.S. Census Bureau: http://www.census.gov/
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http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/prevent/drugfree/1999/chart99.html

⁴ New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area,

http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/ny-nj-main.html

Executive Office of Weed and Seed: http://www.weedseed.org/siteinfo.asp

⁶ New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Web site: http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us/cgi/internet/areastat/areastat.cgi

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⁸ Ibid.

9 National Institute of Justice, 1999 Annual Report on Drug Use Among Adult and Juvenile Arrestees, July 2000: http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/99adltfind.pdf

¹⁰ New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, 1998 Crime and Justice Annual Report: http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us/crimnet/ojsa/cja 98/cj98sec2.pdf

11 Ibid.

¹² CDC. Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance-United States. 1999:

ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Publications/mmwr/ss/ss4905.pdf

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¹⁷ Community Epidemiology Work Group, Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse, January 1999, http://www.cdmgroup.com/cewg

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²¹ Ibid.

²² Community Epidemiology Work Group, Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse, Advance Report, December 1999: http://www.nida.nih.gov/CEWG/AdvancedRep/1299ADV/1299adv.html#DrugAbuse

²³ Community Epidemiology Work Group, Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse, January 1999, http://www.cdmgroup.com/cewg

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

26 Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Drug Abuse Warning Network Annual Medical Examiner Data 1998, March 2000: http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/DAWN/98me_annual.pdf²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Mid-Year 1999 Preliminary Emergency Department Data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network, March 2000: http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/DAWN/DawnMidYr/99mid_year.pdf

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³⁰ Community Epidemiology Work Group, Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse, Advance Report. December 1999: http://www.nida.nih.gov/CEWG/AdvancedRep/1299ADV/1299adv.html#DrugAbuse

³¹ Bureau of Justice Statistics, Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics, 1998, 1999, http://www.albanv.edu/sourcebook/1995/pdft439.pdf

² New York State web site: <u>http://www.state.ny.us/</u>

³ Drug-Free Community Grantees:

34 State of New York, Office of Funding and Program Assistance, FFY 1996 Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program, Drug and Violent Crime Control Strategy, 1996. 35 State of New York, Office of Funding and Program Assistance, FFY 1997-2000 Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program, Drug and Violent Crime Control Strategy, March 1997.

36 Ibid.

37 Ibid.

38 U.S. Sentencing Commission, http://www.ussc.gov/judpack/1998/ny98.pdf

⁴¹ Drug Court Program Office: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/dcpo/welcome.html

⁴³ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 1999*, April 2000: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/pjim99.pdf

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⁴⁵ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Probation and Parole in 1999*, Press Release, July 2000: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/pp99pr.pdf

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- 51 Ibid.
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³² FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, 1998, October 1999: http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/98cius.htm 33 New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta.html

⁴⁰ OJP Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, American University, Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County, March 31, 2000

⁴² Join Together on-line news article, June 27, 2000, http://www.jointogether.org/sa/wire/frameset.html

⁴⁹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Uniform Facility Data Set*: ftp://ftp.samhsa.gov/pub/ufds/ufdsrpt97.pdf

This State Profile was prepared by the ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and is a component of the <u>National Criminal Justice Reference Service</u>. For further information concerning the contents of this profile or other drug policy issues, contact:

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